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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,884	11/30/2001	Pascal Chesnais	NMP-001.01.	4187
25181	7590	09/21/2005	EXAMINER	
FOLEY HOAG, LLP PATENT GROUP, WORLD TRADE CENTER WEST 155 SEAPORT BLVD BOSTON, MA 02110			HAMZA, FARUK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2155	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/997,884

Applicant(s)

CHESNAIS ET AL.

Examiner

Faruk Hamza

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-84 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-84 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/11/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on November 30, 2001.
Claims 1-84 are now pending.

Drawings

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because hand written labeling is not accepted. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Abu-Samaha (U.S. Patent Number 6,938,087).

Abu-Samaha teaches the invention as claimed including a system receiving service call in any format and deliver to destination in appropriate format (See abstract).

As to claim 1, Abu-Samaha teaches a method for routing a message to a communications device, said method comprising:

receiving a message via a communications channel (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 21, Abu-Samaha discloses receiving message via communications channel);

converting said message into a uniform media format (Column 4, lines 36- Column 5, lines 21, Abu-Samaha discloses converting message into uniform media format);

identifying at least one of the following:

at least one user communications device to receive said message and at least one communications channel for delivering said message (Column 4, lines 36- Column 5, lines 21, Abu-Samaha discloses communications device to receive message and channel to deliver message);

converting said uniform media formatted message for at least one communications protocol (Column 4, lines 36- Column 5, lines 21, Abu-Samaha discloses converting uniform media format for communications protocol); and

forwarding said message formatted for said at least one communications protocol to said at least one user communications device via at least one communications channel (Column 4, lines 36- Column 5, lines 21, Abu-Samaha discloses forwarding formatted message to user communication device).

As to claim 2, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said uniform media format is implemented in the extensible markup language (Column 9, lines 9-39).

As to claim 3, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said at least one communications protocol includes at least one of the

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following: SMTP, HTML, XML, HDML, WML, VXML, SNPP, SMPP, SIP, SIMPLE, SMDI, Instant Messaging, Short Messaging Service and a Sender Application Program Interface (Column 4, 36-57).

As to claim 4, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of identifying includes: receiving information from an application via an application program interface gateway (Column 8, lines 57-Column 9, lines 8).

As to claim 5, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of identifying comprises: accessing a first database containing contact profile and location information; and accessing a second database containing user preferences information (Column 6, lines 36-66).

As to claim 6, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 5, further comprising: receiving at least one of the following through a user interface: said contact profile and location information and said user preferences information (Column 6, lines 36-66).

As to claim 7, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 5, further comprising: receiving at least one of the following from an application through an application program interface gateway: said contact profile and

location information and said user preferences information (Column 6, lines 36-66).

As to claim 8, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising: storing in a database a copy of at least one of the following: said received message, said uniform media formatted message and said message formatted for said at least one communications protocol (Column 5, lines 58-65).

As to claim 9, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 8, further comprising: permitting accessing of said database through a user interface (Column 5, lines 58-67).

As to claim 10, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising: monitoring delivery status information of said message forwarded to said at least one identified communications device (Column 7, lines 49-65).

As to claim 11, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 10, further comprising: storing said delivery status information in a database (Column 5, lines 39-44).

As to claim 12, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 11, further comprising: permitting accessing of said database through a user interface (Column 5, lines 58-67).

As to claim 13, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 11, further comprising: permitting accessing of said database through an application program interface gateway (Column 6, lines 36-54).

As to claim 14, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining a copy of said uniform media formatted message within a database (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 57);

determining whether said message formatted for a first communications protocol has been delivered via a first communications channel (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 57);

retrieving said copy of said uniform media formatted message from said database (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 57);

identifying at least one of the following:

a second communications device to receive said message and a second communications channel for delivering said message (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 57);

converting said uniform media formatted message for a second communications protocol (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 57); and forwarding said message formatted for said second communications protocol via said second communications channel (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 57).

As to claim 15, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

a first communications channel and a second communications channel are identified,

said uniform media formatted message is converted for a first communications protocol corresponding to said first communications channel and also is converted for a second communications protocol corresponding to said second communications channel,

and wherein said message formatted for said first communications protocol is forwarded via said first communications channel and said message formatted for said second communications protocol is forwarded via said second communications channel (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 57).

As to claim 16, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining a virtual session between a sender and a recipient, wherein said uniform media formatted message is converted for an instant messaging communications protocol and wherein said converted message is forwarded to said recipient via an instant messaging communications channel (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 57).

As to claim 17, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step of receiving includes directing said message to a receiving transport agent and wherein said receiving transport agent converts said message into a uniform media format (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 21).

As to claim 18, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 17, further comprising:

delivering said message converted into a uniform media format to a core messaging module, wherein said core messaging module identifies said at least one user communications device to receive said message (Column 6, lines 65-Column 7, lines 10).

As to claim 19, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 18, wherein said core messaging module comprises a user manager module and a message manager module and wherein said message manager module consults with said user manager module to identify at least one of the following:

said at least one user communications device to receive said message and said at least one communications channel for delivering said message, and wherein said message manager module delivers said uniform media formatted message to at least one delivery transport agent (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 21; Column 8, lines 22-Column 9, lines 8).

As to claim 20, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 19, wherein said at least one delivery transport agent converts said uniform media formatted message into a communications protocol and forwards said message formatted in said communications protocol to said identified at least one user communications device (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 21).

As to claim 21, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said message is received at a receiving transport agent and wherein said receiving transport agent directs the conversion of said message into a uniform media format and directs the storage of said uniform media formatted message into a message storage database (Column 5, lines 22-57).

As to claim 22, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising:

delivering a message handling request to a core messaging module wherein said message handling request corresponds to said received message

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and wherein said core messaging module identifies said at least one user communications device to receive said message (Column 8, lines 22-Column 9, lines 8).

As to claim 23, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 22, wherein said core messaging module comprises a user manager module and a message manager module and wherein said message manager module consults with said user manager module to identify at least one of the following: said at least one user communications device to receive said message and said at least one communications channel for delivering said message, and wherein said message manager module delivers at least one message delivery request to at least one delivery transport agent (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 21; Column 8, lines 22-Column 9, lines 8).

As to claim 24, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 23, wherein said at least one delivery transport agent directs the retrieval of said uniform media formatted message from said message storage database and directs the conversions of said uniform media formatted message into a communications protocol and forwards said message formatted in said communications protocol to said identified at least one user communications device (Column 4, lines 36-Column 5, lines 21).

As to claim 25, Abu-Samaha teaches a method in accordance with claim 24, wherein at least one of the following is placed in a queue as determined by a load balancing module: said message handling request and said at least one message delivery request (Column 8, lines 37-56).

4. Claims 26-60 represent system and 61-84 represent program product that are parallel to method claims 1-25 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faruk Hamza whose telephone number is 571-272-7969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached at 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

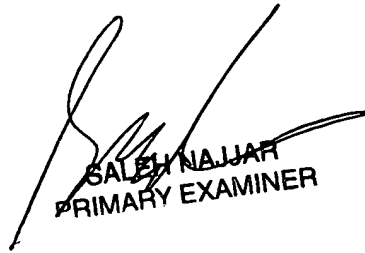
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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll -free).

Faruk Hamza

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unite 2155



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER